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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Etienne COUSIN) Group Art Unit: 3655
 SERIAL NO: 10/070,776) Examiner: Brian E. Glessner
 FILED: April 8, 2002) **EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**
 TITLE: Rail Section For Fixing A Stretched Web, False partition Such As A) **AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**
 False Ceiling Or False Wall Comprising Same

OFFICIAL

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Rail A rail section for stretched fabric false partitions, said section comprising: ~~at least one~~

~~a groove defined by two lateral walls an internal wing, an external wing and a base; wall, said groove being designed to contain at least one edge of the stretched fabric after it has been mounted in the section, said rail section being of a single piece, said rail section comprising a joint, characterized in that said joint keeps the edge of the stretched fabric pinched in said groove between the joint and an internal face of one of said lateral walls, said joint being made of a different material having a property of flexibility differing from that of the material constituting the walls of said groove.~~

a groove defined by an internal wing, an external wing and a base;

an interval adjacent to the external wing and separating the external wing from a mounting surface;

a joint including a lip, and a flap outside the groove, said flap extending outward from said external wing toward said mounting surface;

said lip being shaped and configured to pinch the fabric of the false partition between said lip and said internal wing.

2. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the cross-section of said groove is in general shaped like a V or U, the extreme portions of the lateral walls of the groove opposite the base wall of the groove defining an opening at least partially sealed off by the joint retaining the edge of the stretched fabric.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to ~~claim 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the lip joint is an approximately flat joint, the an internal face of the lip being approximately parallel to its an external face of the lip.
5. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the single lip of the joint extends approximately perpendicular to its support wall the external wing.
6. (Currently Amended) Rail Section according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lip has a free edge that is placed disposed inside the groove.
7. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 4 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the lip has a free edge that is in support against the lateral wall internal wing of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall external wing.
8. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to ~~claim 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the joint has a sole single lip that extends along at an angle of less than 65° with respect to its support wall the external wing.
9. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lip has a free edge that is placed disposed inside the groove.
10. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the free edge of the lip has a free edge of the lip is in support against the lateral wall internal wing of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall external wing.
11. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to ~~claim 3, characterized in that~~ the support wall of the single lip claim 1, wherein the external wing has an extreme portion, the single lip of the joint projecting from said extreme portion.
12. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lip of the joint comprises an internal face orientated towards the base wall of the groove and an external opposing face, the internal face and the external face of the joint not being parallel to each other.
13. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the internal face of the single lip of the joint extends approximately perpendicular to its support wall the external wing.
14. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lip has a free edge that is placed disposed inside the groove.

15. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 12, characterized in that wherein the lip has a free edge that is in support against the lateral wall internal wing of the groove placed opposite the support wall of the joint external wing.
16. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 12, characterized in that wherein the internal face of the single lip of the joint extends along at an angle less than 65° with respect to its support wall external wing.
17. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 16, characterized in that wherein the lip has a free edge that is ~~placed~~ disposed inside the groove.
18. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 17, characterized in that wherein the free edge of lip is in support against the lateral wall internal wing of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall external wing.
19. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 12, characterized in that ~~the support wall of the single lip~~ wherein the external wing has an extreme portion, the single lip of the joint projecting from said extreme portion.
20. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 12, characterized in that wherein the joint has ~~sole~~ single lip, the external face of the ~~sole~~ lip extending approximately perpendicular to the lateral walls internal and external wings of the groove.
21. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the joint lip comprises two lips a first and a second lip, each lip projecting from either one of the lateral walls internal or external wings of said groove, said joint support wall, ~~namely a first lip known as a support lip, and a second lip known as~~ masking lip, the an internal face of the first lip being orientated towards the base wall of the groove being and slanted with respect to the joint support wall at least one of the wings, the an external face of the second lip opposite the base wall of the groove being perpendicular to the joint support wall at least one of the wings.
22. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 21, characterized in that wherein the first lip has a free edge that is in support against the lateral wall internal wing of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall external wing.
23. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 21, characterized in that wherein the internal face of the first lip is slanted by at an angle of less than 65° with respect to the joint support wall external wing.

24. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 21, characterized in that ~~the support wall of the joint wherein the external wing~~ has an extreme portion, the two first and second lips projecting from said extreme portion.

25. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 1, characterized in that ~~the joint wherein the lip~~ comprises two first and second lips, each lip projecting from one of the lateral walls internal or external wings of said groove and comprising an internal face opposite the base wall of the groove and an external opposing face.

26. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 25, characterized in that ~~the two wherein the first and second~~ lips are approximately symmetrical with respect to a plane perpendicular to the base wall of the groove and placed extending halfway from between the two lateral walls internal and external wings of the groove.

27. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 25, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the internal face of at least one of the two first and second lips is slanted by at an angle of less than 65° with respect to the lateral support wall of said lip internal or external wing from which the slanted lip extends.

28. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 25, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the external face of at least one of the two first and second lips extends perpendicular to the support wall of said lip internal or external wing from which the lips extend.

29. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 2, characterized in that ~~the lateral walls of the groove wherein the internal and external wings~~ are made of an approximately rigid material selected from the group comprising metal alloys and rigid polymers, the joint being made of a substantially flexible material, such as a flexible polymer.

30. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 1, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the rail section is obtained by co-extrusion or duplicate moulding of different materials, namely a first material constituting the substantially rigid walls of the groove internal and external wings and a second material constituting the joint.

31. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 30, characterized in that ~~the walls of the groove wherein the internal and external wings~~ are made of a rigid PVC-based material, the joint being made of a flexible PVC.

32. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 1, characterized in that ~~the rail section comprises an external wing from which protrudes perpendicularly is a core bearing projecting an internal wing, wherein~~ said internal wing being is

approximately parallel to the a lower portion of the external wing, the internal wing and the lower section of the external wing forming the lateral walls of said groove, the core of the rail section constituting the base wall of said groove, the and an upper portion of the external wing comprising a C-shaped groove able to receive means for assembling the two portions of the rail sections.

33. (Currently Amended) False A false wall comprising a stretched fabric fixed along its edges to a support fixed onto the walls of a mounting surface in a room, said support comprising a rail formed of portions of rail sections as shown in according to claim 1, characterised in that wherein the edge of said fabric is provided with an excess thickness taking support against the an internal face of the joint.

34. (Currently Amended) False wall as shown in according to claim 33 and used as a false ceiling, the groove for the rail section being oriented downwards, the lateral walls internal and external wings of the groove being approximately vertical, a first lateral wall the external wing of the groove being mounted close to a wall the mounting surface and the second lateral wall internal wing of the groove being situated towards the inside of the room, the first lateral wall external wing having a lower extreme portion, the joint extending projecting from said lower extreme portion, the excess thickness of the edge of the fabric being forcefully introduced upwards between the a free edge of the joint and the second lateral wall internal wing of the groove so that said excess thickness takes support both against the an internal face of the joint and the an internal face of the second lateral wall internal wing of the groove, the fabric stretched horizontally being thus deviated upwards so as to penetrate into the groove of the rail section whilst taking support on the a lower extreme edge of the second lateral wall internal wing of the groove.

35. (Currently Amended) False wall according to claim 34, characterised in that the two lateral walls wherein the internal and external wings of the groove have approximately identical heights, the an external face of the joint being placed disposed perpendicular to said lateral walls the internal and external wings, and thus in the continuity of the stretched fabric.

36. (Currently Amended) False wall according to claim 34, characterised in that the two lateral walls wherein the internal and external wings of the groove have different heights, the first lateral wall external wing of the groove close to the wall mounting surface being of smaller height than the second lateral wall, the internal wing, an external face of the joint being slanted by an angle so as to form a

continuity ~~solution~~ between ~~the~~ an extension plane of the stretched fabric and said lower ~~extremity~~ extreme portion of the ~~first lateral wall~~ external wing.

37. (Currently Amended) False wall according to claim 34, ~~characterised in that~~ the wherein an external face of the joint is made of a material exhibiting a colour, tint or brightness identical to or coordinated with those of the stretched fabric.

38. (Currently Amended) False wall according to claim 34, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~second lateral wall~~ internal wing of the groove under which the stretched fabric takes support has a lower extremity that is rounded.

39. (Currently Amended) False wall according to claim 34, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the false wall comprises two ~~coplanar horizontally~~ stretched fabrics, ~~the edges of said two stretched fabrics being retained inside a groove of a rail section fixed under the ceiling of a room, said rail section further comprising an upper horizontal core prolonged downwards by a vertical~~ a central wing and two other lower horizontal wings situated on both sides of the vertical central wing disposed between the internal and external wings, the horizontal wings constituting the lateral walls of for two opposing grooves and a, said joint support being provided for retaining the excess thicknesses of the edges of the two stretched fabrics inside the grooves.

40. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein:

the lip has a free edge that is placed disposed inside the groove;

the a free edge of the lip is in support against the lateral wall internal wing of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall external wing.

41. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein:

the sole lip of the joint extends along at an angle of less than 65° with respect to ~~its support wall~~ the external wing;

the lip has a free edge that is placed inside the groove;

the free edge of the lip is in support against the ~~lateral wall~~ internal wing of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall external wing;

the ~~support wall~~ external wing has an extreme portion, the ~~single~~ lip projecting from said extreme portion.

42. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein:

the lip of the joint comprises an internal face orientated towards the base wall of the groove and an external opposing face, the internal face and the external face of the joint lip not being parallel to each another;

the internal face of the ~~single~~ lip of the joint extends approximately perpendicular to ~~its support wall~~ the external wing;

the lip has a free edge that is ~~placed~~ disposed inside the groove;

the free edge of the lip is in support against the ~~lateral wall~~ internal wing of the groove placed opposite the ~~support wall of the joint~~ external wing.

43. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 13, characterised in that: the internal face of the ~~single~~ lip of the joint extends along at an angle less than 65° with respect to ~~its support wall~~ the external wing;

the free edge of the lip is ~~placed~~ disposed inside the groove;

the free edge of the lip is in support against the ~~lateral wall~~ internal wing of the groove placed opposite the ~~joint support wall~~ external wing;

the ~~support wall~~ external wing has an extreme portion, the ~~single~~ lip projecting from said extreme portion;

the external face of the ~~single~~ lip of the joint extends approximately perpendicular to the ~~lateral walls~~ internal and external wings of the groove.

44. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 2, characterised in that wherein:

the joint lip comprises ~~two lips~~ a first and a second lip, each lip projecting from either one of the ~~lateral walls~~ internal or external wings of said groove, said joint support wall, namely a ~~first lip known as a support lip, and a second lip known as a masking lip, the~~ an internal face of the first lip being orientated towards the base wall of the groove being and slanted with respect to the joint support wall, the at least one of the wings, an external face of the second lip opposite the base wall of the groove being perpendicular to the ~~joint support wall~~ at least one of the wings;

the first lip has a free edge that is in support against the ~~lateral wall~~ internal wing of the groove placed opposite the ~~joint support wall~~ external wing;

the internal face of the first lip is slanted ~~by~~ at an angle of less than 65° with respect to the ~~joint support wall~~ external wing;

the ~~joint support wall~~ external wing has an extreme portion, the ~~two~~ first and second lips projecting from said extreme portion.

45. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 2, characterised in that wherein:

the joint lip comprises two lips a first and second lip, each lip projecting from either one of the lateral walls internal or external wings of said groove and comprising having an internal face opposite the base wall of the groove and an external opposing face;

the two first and second lips are being approximately symmetrical with respect to a plane perpendicular to the base wall of the groove and placed extending halfway from between the two lateral walls internal and external wings of the groove;

the internal face of at least one of the two lips is being slanted by an angle of less than 65° with respect to the lateral support wall of said lip internal or external wing from which the slanted lip extends;

the external face of at least one of the two lips extends perpendicular to the support wall of said lip internal or external wing from which lips extend;

the lateral walls internal and external wings of the groove are made of an approximately rigid material selected from the group comprising metal alloys and rigid polymers, the joint being made of a substantially flexible material, such as a flexible polymer;

the rail section is obtained by co-extrusion or duplicate moulding of different materials, namely a first material constituting the substantially rigid walls wings of the groove, and a second material constituting the joint;

the walls wings of the groove are made of a rigid PVC-based material, the joint being made of a flexible PVC;

~~the rail section comprises an external wing from which protrudes perpendicularly is a core bearing projecting an internal wing; said internal wing being approximately parallel to the a lower portion of the external wing, the internal wing and the lower section of the external wing forming the lateral walls of said groove, the core of the rail section constituting the base wall of said groove, the and an upper portion of the external wing comprising a C-shaped groove able to receive means for assembling the two portions of the butt rail sections.~~

46. (Currently Amended) False wall as shown in claim 33 and used as a false ceiling, wherein:

the groove for the rail section being oriented downwards, the lateral walls internal and external wings of the groove being approximately vertical, a first lateral

~~wall~~ the external wing of the groove being mounted close to a wall ~~the mounting surface~~ and the ~~second lateral wall~~ internal wing of the groove being situated towards the inside of the room, the first lateral wall external wing having a lower extreme portion, the joint extending ~~projecting~~ from said lower extreme portion, the excess thickness of the edge of the fabric being forcefully introduced upwards between the a free edge of the joint and the second lateral wall internal wing of the groove so that said excess thickness takes support both against the an internal face of the joint and the an internal face of the second lateral wall internal wing of the groove, the fabric stretched horizontally being thus deviated upwards so as to penetrate into the groove of the rail section whilst taking support on the a lower extreme edge of the second lateral wall internal wing of the groove;

the two lateral walls internal and external wings of the groove have one of approximately identical heights, the an external face of the joint being placed disposed perpendicular to said lateral walls the internal and external wings, and thus in the continuity of the stretched fabric and;

the internal and external wings having different heights, the first lateral wall external wing of the groove close to the wall mounting surface being of smaller height than the ~~second lateral wall~~, the internal wing, an external face of the joint being slanted by an angle so as to form a continuity solution between the an extension plane of the stretched fabric and the lower extremity extreme portion of the first lateral wall external wing;

the an external face of the joint is made of a material exhibiting a colour, tint or brightness identical to or coordinated with those of the stretched fabric.

47. (Currently Amended) False wall according to claim 46, characterised in that the lower extremity extreme edge of the ~~second lateral wall~~ internal wing of the groove under which the stretched fabric takes support is rounded.

48. (Currently Amended) False wall according to claim 46, characterised in that wherein the false wall comprises two coplanar horizontally stretched fabrics, the edges of said two stretched fabrics being retained inside a groove of a rail section fixed under the ceiling of a room, said rail section further comprising an upper horizontal core prolonged downwards by a vertical a central wing and two other lower horizontal wings situated on both sides of the vertical central wing disposed between the internal and external wings, the horizontal wings constituting the lateral walls of for two opposing grooves and a, said joint support being provided for

retaining the excess thicknesses of the edges of the two stretched fabrics inside the grooves.